



Dear Parents of Incoming 2nd Graders,

Congratulations on your child's graduation from first grade! You and your child have worked hard this year, and we wish you all a very fun and restful summer. Along with some fun in the sun, there is always a little time to fit in some learning.

To help your child to avoid learning loss over the summer, we highly recommend the following activities:

- **Summer Break Packet**
 - 8 weeks of fun activities, including math concepts and facts, phonics, comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing
 - Each week, you will find an overview of the skills covered and a word list of high frequency words to learn.

- **Reading Activities**
 - Read for 20 minutes daily.
 - If 20 minutes is too long at first, chunk the time into 2 ten-minute sessions, or 4 five-minute sessions. Gradually increase reading time to develop stamina. Setting a timer may help your child.

- Create a cozy reading nook in a quiet, distraction free area.
 - Choose books that are “just right” for your child to read independently and that spark his/her interest.
 - Have your child also read aloud to you daily to improve fluency and expression.
 - Choose chapter books and picture books that are beyond your child’s reading level and read those aloud to your child every day. This will help to develop listening comprehension, vocabulary, and content knowledge.
 - Choose a variety of genres – fantasy, realistic fiction, informational texts, graphic novels, poetry, etc.
 - Visit the library often to get new books. The children’s librarian is an excellent resource person who can help point you in the right direction for your child’s level and interests. The library also has fun, motivational summer reading programs and incentives.
 - Check out free, digital books from the online San Jose Public Library if you aren’t able to make it there in person.
 - Learn to spell your last name if you haven’t yet.
 - Make flash cards each week with the Dolch sight words. Practice reading them quickly. Make two sets of cards and play a matching game.
- **Writing Activities**
 - Keep a journal to write about daily adventures and vacations, imaginative stories, poems, and more. Perfect spelling isn’t the goal. Focus on “sounding out” and getting ideas in writing to develop fluency and love of writing.

- Use the journal as a science notebook for hiking, trips to the zoo, visits to the beach, etc. Make observations, draw what you see, and write about it.
 - Have your child write the grocery list. Don't worry about perfect spelling for this. Instead, get her/him used to writing the sounds heard when saying the word and stretching it out.
 - Have your child write a friendly letter(s) to a family member or friend. Mail the letter(s).
 - Use the sight words each week to write sentences with using uppercase at the beginning and a period at the end. The sentences can be silly.
 - Scramble the sight words for your child and have them unscramble them.
 - Play games such as Boggle and Scrabble Jr.
- **Math Practice**
 - Use addition flash cards for a few minutes several times each week to maintain speed and accuracy. Students should have basic addition facts from 0-10 memorized before 2nd grade.
 - Play card games such as "War" to practice comparing numbers. You can play "Sum War" by playing 2 cards and adding them. The player with the greater sum wins the cards.
 - Dice are a fun way to practice recalling addition facts.
 - Try 3 dice to practice adding 3 numbers.
 - When adding 3 numbers, look for ways to make 10 with 2 numbers first.
 - Practice counting to 1,000 starting at different numbers. Practice counting on and counting back.

- Practice skip counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, and 100s. Try starting at different numbers.
- Practice writing 2-digit plus 2-digit addition and subtraction and solve them.

- **Book List for Fun Summer Reading**
 - The books on the list (**on pages 5-8**) are suggested to help your child grow a love of reading and improve skills over the break.

- **Recommended Clever Apps**
 - For those who have Clever access, spending 10-15 minutes per app a few times per week can help to increase math and literacy skills.
 - ST Math
 - Lexia
 - Freckle Math and English

We hope these resources will provide lots of learning for your incoming 2nd grader over the summer. We wish your family a blessed summer full of special moments together with plenty of rest, relaxation, and fun.

Sincerely,

Your SJV 2nd Grade Team

Book Suggestions for Incoming 2nd Graders

PICTURE BOOKS

Picture books are great for any age. Some favorites for entering second graders include:

Barnett, Mac	Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
Brown, Peter	My Teacher is a Monster (No, I Am Not)
Daywalt, Drew	The Day the Crayons Came Back
Falconer, Ian	Olivia the Spy
Higgins, Ryan T.	We Don't Eat Our Classmates!
Keller, Laurie	The Scrambled States of America
Klassen, Jon	This is Not My Hat
Miller, Rhett	No More Poems!: A Book in Verse That Just Gets Worse
Pizzoli, Greg	The Book Hog
Reynolds, Aaron	Nerdy Birdy
Rubin, Adam	Dragons Love Tacos
Willems, Mo	Knuffle Bunny
Willems, Mo	The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!

EARLY READERS

Early Readers are ideal for many first graders who are going into second. They are basically beginning chapter books and usually give the reader a lot of practice with high-frequency words. Many of the books have humorous plots and characters. Some are easier to read than others, but numbers on some of the books can direct the reader to the appropriate level.

Adler, David	Mo Jackson (series)
Arnold, Tedd	Fly Guy (series)
Fenske, Jonathan	A Pig, a Fox, and Stinky Socks
Henkes, Kevin	Penny and Her Song
Lobel, Arnold	Frog and Toad (series)
McMullan, Kate	Pearl and Wagner (series)
O'Connor, Jane	Fancy Nancy readers
Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge (series)
Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby (series)
Rylant, Cynthia	Poppleton (series)
Schneider, Josh	Tales for Very Picky Eaters
Willems, Mo	Elephant & Piggie (series)

CHAPTER BOOKS

The books listed below should satisfy a reader who wants a bit of a challenge.

Barrows, Annie	Ivy + Bean (series)
Bauer, Marion	Dane The Blue Ghost
Benton, Jim	Franny K. Stein (series)
Bruel, Nick	Bad Kitty (series)
DiCamillo, Kate	Mercy Watson (series)
Elliott, Rebecca	Owl Diaries (series)
Flintham, Thomas	Press Start! (series)
Gutman, Dan	My Weird School (series)
Hale, Shannon	The Princess in Black (series)
Hanlon, Abby	Dory Fantasmagory
Nolan, Lucy	Down Girl and Sit
Osborne, Mary Pope	The Magic Tree House (series)
Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries (series)
Scieszka, Jon	Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor
Various authors	Choose Your Own Adventure (revised series)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Many great graphic novels for beginning readers are being published now. Students of all ages love these.

Annable, Graham	Peter & Ernesto (series)
Arnold, Tedd	Noodleheads (series)
Blabey, Aaron	The Bad Guys (series)
Burks, James	Bird & Squirrel (series)
Hatke, Ben	Zita the Spacegirl (series)
Krosoczka, Jarrett J.	The Lunch Lady (series)
Pilkey, Dav	Dogman (series) Winick, Judd Hilo (series)

NON-FICTION

“True” books to entertain and inform.

Bugler, Beth	My First Book of Football
DK	Junior Maker: Experiments to Try, Crafts to Create, and Lots to Learn!
Donnelly, Judy	The Titanic: Lost and Found
Ehlert, Lois	The Scraps Book: Notes From a Colorful Life
Florian, Douglas	Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars
Martin, Claudia	My Little Book of Rocks, Minerals, and Gems
Osborne, Will	Magic Tree House Research Guides
Silverstein, Shel	Where the Sidewalk Ends

